



Docket No. 2022645-7002052002

**Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):**

[ X ] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop DD, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-145

[ ] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ at Facsimile No. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Dated: 12-12-03

Name of Person Certifying: Pam Golden

Printed Name: Pam Golden

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Robert J. Fretz, et al.

Assignee: GN ReSound North America Corporation

Filing Date: October 28, 1999

Examiner: Phylesha Larvinia Dabney

Serial No.: 09/341,994

Group Art Unit: 2643

Title: **BEHIND THE EAR HEARING AID SYSTEM**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

DEC 19 2003

Technology Center 2600

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application.

**I. Timing of the Information Disclosure Statement:**

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed:

- ☐ With the new patent application submitted herewith (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(a)).
- ☐ Within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491.
- ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits. In the event, however, that an Office Action on the merits has crossed in the mail with this Information Disclosure Statement, no fee will be due if the certification below is checked. Otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2518 for the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) and any additional required fees.

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This Information Disclosure Statement is filed:

- ☒ After the first Office Action and more than three months after the application's filing date; or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2518 for the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) and any additional required fees.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed:

- ☐ After the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, whichever occurred first, and is accompanied by the fee (\$180.00) set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1) and a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), as checked below. This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The undersigned certifies that:

- ☐ Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

## II. Copies of the Cited Items:

- ☒ Copies of all of the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.
- ☐ Copies of only the following items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Copies of those items which are marked with an asterisk (\*) in the attached Form PTO-1499 are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in a prior Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_ and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C § 120. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

- ☐ Copies of those items which are marked with an asterisk (\*\*) in the attached Form PTO-1499 were cited in a foreign examination report in a related case. A copy of the search report and the cited references not already of record in this application are attached hereto.

**III. Concise Explanation of Relevance:**

- ☒ A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on Form PTO-1449 is not given.
- ☐ A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on Form PTO-1449 is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references (copy attached).

**IV. Conclusion:**

Citation of the above documents shall not be construed as:

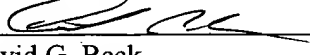
1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate consideration of the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO 1449 with initials or other appropriate marks.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2518 Docket No. 2022645-7002052002 for any additional fees required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

DATE: 12/12/22

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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